

Method And Apparatus For Distribution And Installation Of Computer Programs Across An Enterprise

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ABSTRACT

The invention comprises a method and apparatus for the remote installation of software from one or more central locations to a plurality of remote machines. A centralized database, remote to the user, is maintained that includes characteristics of users and/or their machines. An image of a computer program, such as an operating system, is maintained at a location that is remote to the user/machine. Image information is accessed from within the database to configure the program. The image is downloaded to a destination machine on a medium that also includes a utility for installing the image at the destination machine. The medium is used to install the program at the destination, and automatically configures the program using configuration settings that are also imaged on the medium, and that are maintained at the database. Thus, a boot disk is provided that is only used for the installation process.

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